

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending in this application. Claims 1-10, 22, and 23 have been cancelled. Applicants have amended Claims 11, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 20 for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Claims 24 and 25 have been added.

1. Claim Objections

Claims 13-15 and 19-21 stand objected to as being improper dependent claims. The Examiner finds that the term “corresponding” in Claims 13 and 19 “does not appear to be limited to nucleotide position 31,” which is further evidenced by the recitation of SEQ ID NO: 3, a single base extension primer designed to determine the nucleotide at position 858, in Claims 14 and 20. Claims 13, 14, 19, and 20 have been amended to obviate this issue.

The claims as amended recite two different single-base extension primers, one directed to the nucleotide corresponding to position 31 (Claim 13 and 19), while the other directed to the nucleotide corresponding to position 858 (Claims 14 and 20). The linkage disequilibrium between nucleotide 31 and nucleotide 858 of SEQ ID NO: 1, as described throughout the application (e.g., at p.7, lines 5-30), enables a skilled artisan to determine the nucleotide at position 31 by ascertaining the nucleotide at position 858. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Rejections

Claims 11-21 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for lack of enablement, and second paragraph for indefiniteness. Both rejections are based on the recitation of the term “corresponding” in Claims 13 and 19, of which term the scope and meaning are unclear due to the dependency of Original Claims 14 and 20.

Applicants have amended the claims to cancel the term “corresponding” in Claims 13 and 19. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

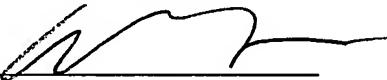
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

A Petition for a two-month extension of time and appropriate fee are filed concurrently herewith. If an additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. WIBL-P01-563 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Xuqiong Wu

Registration No.: 55,745
ROPES & GRAY LLP
(Customer No: 28120)
One International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624
(617) 951-7000
(617) 951-7050 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant